

Structural FAC Teleconference Minutes 10 October 2001

1. Participants: The following members participated in this month's meeting:

Lori Taylor (MVP)
Jim Bruszewski (LRB)
Ghassem Khosrownia (SPK)
Jeff Qunell (NWS)
Cyndi Riley (SWL)
Clare VanDyke (SPK)
Glenn Kato (Systems Administrator – NWS)

FY02 Structural Detail Library Additions: The project was approved for FY02 funding. Cyndi will take the lead on this project. When funds are received, we will have to decide which details to start with and how many we will be able to do with the funds available.

3. Structural Website: A contract for the Structural Website was awarded by the CADD Center the last week of September for \$33K. The work is scheduled to be completed by March 2002. We were able to include development of the Mathcad Library in the contract. The website layout we submitted appears to be what was sent to the contractor. Information sent to the contractor is available on St. Paul District's FTP server at <ftp.mvp.usace.army.mil> under /pub/stfac/Website Layout/Contract. Information under /pub/stfac/Website Layout/Contract is what we submitted to the CADD Center. John Lanzarone in HQ is currently working on putting together an E&C website which will include all disciplines. He has a really good handle on knowledge management, and we will be coordinating our efforts with him. Lori will check with John Connor to see if he has time to take the lead on the website. Everyone is encouraged to submit links to useful websites, especially those containing free, downloadable CADD details or design calculators.

4. FY02 CADD Symposium Presentations: The CADD Symposium will be held on 19-22 August 2002 in San Antonio, TX. Our group will try to put together presentations on integrating Mathcad and CADD (Jeff), and metrification (Ghassem). If completed on schedule, we will also be able to demonstrate our website at the SAC/FAC booth. If anyone else has ideas for presentations or would like to be a presenter, please let Lori know. Abstracts for presentations will be requested by the symposium coordinators sometime after the first of the year. So those who are planning on giving presentations should try to put something together before then. Lori will look into funding availability for presenters.

5. FY03 Project Proposals:

5.1 Bridge Inspection - Everyone is encouraged to check with those in their district who perform bridge inspections to see if they have any needs, which we could address.

5.2 Structural Detail Library Additions - We will be submitting a project proposal again for creating additional structural details.

5.3 Additions to Website - The possible addition of an Assistant.net to our website was discussed. This is a feature being included in the Civil/Site Website, which would allow users to ask-an-expert. Since the Structural Website will already include a forum-style site where users can post questions to other site users, it is uncertain whether or not an additional resource would be needed or used. Problems regarding liability and obtaining "experts" were also discussed.

6. Electronic Meeting Options: This topic was tabled until John Connor is available.

7. Article Ideas for the USACE CADD Newsletter: The next newsletter will be issued around the end of December. Putting together articles on the status of our website and metrification were discussed.

8. Metrification: Many designers and drafters have a hard time figuring out which standards to use, and when they find a standard/regulation, they have a hard time understanding it. Appropriate use of hard/soft conversions seems to be a problem. It was suggested we put together an easy-to-understand list of do's and don'ts for metric projects. Lori will check to see what standards should be used and what's already out there for guidance.

9. AutoCAD Enhancements: Sacramento would like to put together a list of possible AutoCAD enhancements similar to that put together for Bentley products. Clare will be the POC for this effort. He will identify which districts are using AutoCAD for drawing productions, and then solicit those districts for suggested enhancements. Further discussion is required to determine what avenue to take once a list is compiled.

10. The Next Meeting will be a conference call to be held on 14 November at 1:00 p.m. CDT.